

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 20, 23, 26, 29, 30 and 31 are pending. Claim 31 has been added and corresponds to the subject matter of Group III. Claim 31 is supported by the disclosure at page 15, lines 1-5, of the specification. Claim 15 has been amended. Claims 3 - 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16-19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, and 28 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 23, 26, 29, and 30 have been withdrawn. Of course, Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications to the cancelled and non-elected subject matter. The Examiner issued a 5-way restriction requirement according to the following groups, and indicated that Applicants must elect a single nucleic acid sequence from SEQ ID NOs. 1-6, regardless of the elected group.

Group I (claims 1-10 and 26-28), to MKK nucleic acids, vectors, host cells;

Group II (claims 11-13), drawn to antisense molecules;

Group III (claims 14-22), drawn to MKK proteins;

Group IV (claims 23-25), drawn to MKK antibodies; and

Group V (claims 29 and 30), drawn to a method of inhibiting signal transduction.

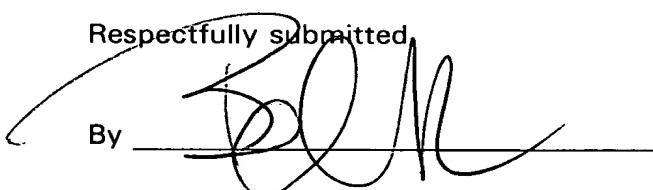
Accordingly, Applicants provisionally elect Group III, *i.e.*, claims 14-22** and newly added claim 31, and SEQ ID NO. 2, the amino acid sequence of MKK1, with traverse.

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Respectfully submitted

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** Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the Office Action Summary dated 06/18/03, which inadvertently does not list claim 20 as pending, yet page 2 of the detailed action indicates that claim 20 is part of elected group III.